



February 5, 2022

**Re: Support for HB 4077 - Environmental Justice for All**

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 4077 to move Oregon forward on environmental justice by strengthening the Environmental Justice Task Force and establishing a centralized data system for environmental justice. My name is Jenny Lee, and I am the Deputy Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC), an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations dedicated to collective action for racial justice.

Throughout our environmental justice advocacy, CCC has recognized the Environmental Justice Task Force as an important leader and partner in climate and environmental policy. We believe that increased capacity, funding, and staffing is essential to meet the growing needs of environmental justice communities. Renaming the task force as the Environmental Justice Council better recognizes the important role that this body serves as a connector between community advocates, technical experts, and state agencies to address environmental justice issues. Despite its important role, the task force has always been seriously under-resourced, with no dedicated staff. As the impact of the climate crisis accelerates, the scope and urgency of this work will only increase, and the state must respond by properly resourcing and staffing this body.

All of our decisionmaking on environmental policy must center the needs of those most impacted. We can only have a full understanding of the environmental benefits and burdens on Oregon's most vulnerable communities, including Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, when we have a robust system that allows our state agencies to analyze and map data. A centralized system of data related to health, socioeconomic status, and environmental disparities is needed to give a comprehensive understanding of environmental justice issues in Oregon. This data will allow us to craft better policies that center frontline communities. It's time to join other states and the federal government in data collection and mapping so we have Oregon-specific information on our communities' needs.

On behalf of the Coalition of Communities of Color, we respectfully urge you to support HB 4077 to enhance the state's capacity and infrastructure to advance environmental justice.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Lee", written in a cursive style.

Jenny Lee  
Deputy Director  
Coalition of Communities of Color